

I hereby certify that this Information Disclosure Statement and the documents referred to as enclosed therein are being deposited with the United States Postal Service on this date, 10/15/01, with sufficient postage as first class mail addressed to the Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.

**-RECEIVED**

OCT 23 2001

Technology Center 2600

The applicant hereby affirms that the first citation of the referenced patent by a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application was not made in any

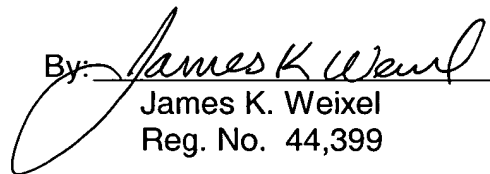
communication from the foreign office more than three months prior to filing this Information Disclosure Statement.

This submission does not represent that no better art exists and does not constitute an admission that each or all of the listed documents are material or constitute "prior art." If the Examiner applies any of the documents as prior art against any claim in the application and applicant determines that the cited documents do not constitute "prior art" under United States law, applicant reserves the right to present to the office the relevant facts and law regarding the appropriate status of such documents.

Applicant further reserves the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the disclosed invention over the listed documents, should one or more of the documents be applied against the claims of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

By: \_\_\_\_\_

  
James K. Weixel  
Reg. No. 44,399

Date: 10/12/2001

Verizon Services Group  
HQE03H01  
600 Hidden Ridge  
Irving, TX 75038  
Tel: 781/466-2220

**RECEIVED**  
OCT 23 2001  
Technology Center 2600